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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 550
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Bradley Memorial Hospital on its golden anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those exemplary institutions, celebrating milestones in their venerable existence, that have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such institution of health care excellence is the Bradley Memorial Hospital in Bradley County, described on its opening day, fifty years ago, by the Cleveland Daily Banner as, "a lasting memorial to the men from Bradley County who gave their lives in their country's service during World War II,...stand[ing] as a beacon of hope, a brilliant ray of comfort to the sick and afflicted from all walks of life..."; and

WHEREAS, throughout its fifty years, the Bradley Memorial Hospital has enjoyed local, State, and national recognition as one of the finest hospitals in operation striving to meet the needs of local citizens while anticipating the future needs of the citizens of the Ocoee Region; and

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WHEREAS, shortly after World War II, it was determined by a number of civic and business leaders from the Cleveland and Bradley County area that a new hospital was needed as there had been significant growth in the area, both in population and in industry; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Mr. H.B. Carter, President of the Chamber of Commerce, articulated the idea for a new hospital and he quickly found considerable community-wide support. A committee comprised of Mr. Carter, Dr. W.A. Garrott, Mr. W.B. Parks, and Mr. Paul Abel earned the backing and support for a public hospital from the full Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland City Commission, the Bradley County Quarterly Court, the local Medical Profession, Parent Teacher's Association, Bradley Home Demonstration Clubs, American Legion, the Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs, and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, funding for the new hospital was subsequently provided by the federal Hill-Burton program, the State of Tennessee, and via a bond issue approved by the Citizens of Bradley County; a thirteen-acre site was selected, hospital Board members were appointed by the City of Cleveland and Bradley County Quarterly Court, and construction began; and

WHEREAS, Mr. T.C. Bower served as Chairman of the original board, while Mr. Owen Wattenbarger, Mr. Charles S. Mayfield, Jr., Mr. John E. Campbell, and Dr. William A. Garrott were the board's first members and Mr. Walter J. Bailey, the hospital's first administrator; and

WHEREAS, the fifty-two bed facility was named in honor of the men from Bradley County who were killed in action in World War II. Dedicated into service on December 28, 1952, the hospital's first patient was admitted at 7 a.m. three days later on December 31, 1952; and

WHEREAS, described at the time by the Cleveland Daily Banner as "a fount of life" and "a foe of disease," the Bradley Memorial Hospital has exemplified the very best in health care, and as the hospital has grown in size, hospital leaders, physicians, and hospital staff have maintained their passionate desire to always excel in the delivery of quality medical, surgical, and health education services; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, Bradley Memorial Hospital has been the Ocoee Region's largest and most comprehensive public hospital. During its five decades of service, untold millions of dollars worth of care has been provided to local citizens; and

WHEREAS, steadfast in its pursuit of excellence throughout the years, Bradley Memorial Hospital has enjoyed a sacred place in the hearts of thousands; the hospital's success is directly attributable to the men and women whose vision became reality, and those whose hearts and hands have ministered to patients and families beyond measure for five decades; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the Board of Trustees, the administration, staff, and volunteers, both past and present, of the Bradley Memorial Hospital for fifty years of dedicated and proven service to providing affordable and quality health care for the citizens of the Ocoee Region, while extending our best wishes for every future success in the health care arena.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.